

# next network

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## Transforming Instruction for More Rigorous Requirements

While the national focus has been on the shift to Common Core State Standards, the bigger challenge will be increasing the rigor and relevance of instruction to prepare students for success on the new assessments and to be college and career-ready.

Next Network supports educators as they dramatically and sustainably change instruction to prepare students not only for the new assessments but also for success in college and careers.

Hundreds of  
Next Generation  
Assessment  
items, thousands  
of high-rigor  
lessons, and  
countless  
opportunities  
for professional  
development

*Featuring*  next|navigator



**International Center for  
Leadership in Education**



# Moving Toward Tomorrow — Today

Next Network is an extensive suite of online tools and resources designed to support changing instruction in preparation for Common Core State Standards and more rigorous assessments. Next Network:

- Encourages reflective practice by showing the higher expectations of the new standards and assessments
- Supports the development of rigorous and relevant instruction with ongoing professional development opportunities
- Provides highly interactive, web-based forums for collaboration, discussion, and sharing of best practices and classroom-tested resources among colleagues and other Next Network members across the country
- Connects like-minded, innovative educators nationwide to learn from one another, challenge each other, and push the status quo
- Serves as a comprehensive, digital resource for educators focused on rigor, relevance, and relationships for all students
- Delivers virtual, on-demand support to help utilize and implement Next Network resources within the classroom

The screenshot shows the Next Network website. At the top, the logo "next network" is displayed in blue and yellow. To the right, a user is logged in as "Hello Patrick!" with links for "My Mail", "My Friends", "My Coach", "My Profile", and "Log Out". Below the logo is a navigation bar with tabs: "My Network", "PD Center", "Research", "Online Learning", "Next Navigator", "Surveys", "Gold Seal Lessons", and "About Us". The main heading is "A National Professional Learning Community".

On the left sidebar, there is a section "Ask a Coach" with a "Connect to Next Network Coaching Center" button. Below this is a "Connect" section featuring three coaches: Brooks (Dale Eggebraaten), DougS (Doug Silver), and Linda (Linda Lucey). At the bottom of the sidebar is a logo for "The Next Network is powered by SPN Successful Practices Network".

The main content area features a row of icons for various resources: Announcements, Common Core State Standards, Gold Seal Lessons, Learning Criteria, Model Schools, Next Navigator, Professional Development, Rigor Relevance, and FOCUS Segments. The "Next Navigator" icon is highlighted.

Below the icons, there is a section titled "Why?" with the following text: "While the national focus has been on the shift to the Common Core State Standards, the larger challenge will be preparing students for success on the next generation assessments. These new assessments will be fundamentally different from the current state assessments in that they will be performance-based. Your students will need to demonstrate their ability to function in Quadrant D by thinking in complex ways and applying their skills when confronted with perplexing, complicated problems." Below this text is a paragraph: "To bridge the gap between the current state assessments and the next generation assessments, Next Navigator will support your instructional leaders and teachers in planning instruction that prepares students for these new requirements."

Below the text is a search interface with four tabs: "By Oklahoma State Standard", "By CCSS", "By Sample NGA", and "By Common Core Strand and GSL". The "By CCSS" tab is selected. The search form includes fields for "Subject:", "Grade:", and "Keyword(s):". Below the form is a note: "\* Please enter a grade, content area, and/or keyword(s) for search." and buttons for "Reset" and "Search".

Below the search form is a section titled "Coach's Support" with a "Getting Started" subsection. It lists three steps: "1. Search Next Navigator data by clicking on one of the three tabs above:", "2. Select the subject area and grade level", and "3. Click Search". Below the steps is a link: "Please click here to complete a Next Navigator Usage/Feedback Survey".

At the bottom right of the main content area is a button labeled "Begin Alignment Search".

# Preparing for More Rigorous Requirements

Central to Next Network is a powerful tool called Next Navigator, which helps prioritize instruction as schools transition from current state standards to Common Core State Standards. The Next Navigator alignment tool:

- Shows the similarities and disparities among state standards, college- and career-ready skills, and Common Core State Standards
- Illustrates the difference between current state tests and Next Generation Assessments with hundreds of exemplary performance tasks that mirror the rigor of the new assessments
- Articulates the connections among the national career clusters and pathways and the Common Core State Standards

## Alignment Search

The screenshot shows the Next Navigator Alignment Search tool interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'By Ohio State Standard', 'By CCSS', 'By Sample NGA', and 'By Common Core Standard and GLE'. Below these are search filters for 'Subject: Math', 'Grade: 6', and 'Keyword(s):'. A 'Search' button is present. The main area displays a table with columns for 'Ohio State Standard', 'GAT/OGT', 'Choose (up to 3)', 'Essential Skills Bank', and 'Common Core State Standard'. The table lists standards for 'STANDARD - Number, Number Sense, and Operations' and 'STANDARD - Expressions and Equations'. Callouts point to specific features: 'Your state standard' points to the Ohio State Standard column; 'Importance on your state test' points to the GAT/OGT column; 'Priority ranked by the National Essential Skills Survey (NESS)' points to the Choose column; 'Aligned Common Core State Standard' points to the Common Core State Standard column; and 'Next Generation Assessment sample items assess student mastery of the Common Core State Standards' points to the Sample NGA column.

**Your state standard**

**Importance on your state test**

**Priority ranked by the National Essential Skills Survey (NESS)**

**Aligned Common Core State Standard**

**Next Generation Assessment sample items assess student mastery of the Common Core State Standards**

# Next Generation Assessment Items to Use Today

Whether you are in a PARCC or SMARTER Balanced state, the new assessments will be significantly more rigorous than most state tests. They will require students not only to apply their knowledge and skills but to do so in real-world, unpredictable situations.

Hundreds of sample Next Generation Assessment items illustrate the difference between typical state test questions and the more rigorous items that will be on the new assessments. They also can be used in the classroom to assess student preparedness.

**View Sample NGA**

**Title:** Design-A-Word    **Subject:** ELA    **Grade Level:** 6

**Primary Common Core State Standards (no more than 3):**

**Writing - Text Types and Purposes (ELA - Grade 6)**  
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

**Language - Vocabulary Acquisition and Use (ELA - Grade 6)**  
5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

**Language - Vocabulary Acquisition and Use (ELA - Grade 6)**  
6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

**Other Related Common Core State Standards:**

**Writing - Production and Distribution of Writing (ELA - Grade 6)**  
4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

**Writing - Range of Writing (ELA - Grade 6)**  
10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

**Next Generation Assessment:**

Transform one content vocabulary word from current science, social studies, or math curriculum into a learner-friendly artistic display that includes:

(a) the target word assembled in large, bold, and creatively displayed lettering

(b) 3-5 metaphors comparing the target word to foods, sports, colors, movies, tools, etc.

(c) magazine, newspaper, or computer-generated images correlated to selected metaphors

original poem or paragraph that establishes a clear and accurate description (not definition) of target word while incorporating the selected metaphors

**Duration:** about 45 minutes

**Student Work:** • Metaphorical Word Collage

**Criteria for Student Learning:**

1. Overall Appearance
2. Metaphors
3. Images
4. Poem/Paragraph

**Resources students will be provided or will have to acquire:**

Dictionary and Thesaurus Magazines, Newspapers, Computer Access Art Supplies (scissors, glue, construction paper, etc.)

**Scoring Guide:** Scoring Rubric

Criteria for Student Learning	Percent Weight	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Exemplary
<b>Overall Appearance</b>	25	Incomplete collage	Complete, but lacks eye appeal	Complete and ready to display with minor adjustments	Complete and ready to display
<b>Metaphors</b>	25	1 or less clear metaphors	2 clear metaphors	3 clear metaphors	More than 3 clear metaphors
<b>Images</b>	25	No images that correlate to metaphors	Not all images correlate to presented metaphors	3 images and all correlate to presented metaphors	Images provided for all metaphors; extra visuals provided
<b>Poem/Paragraph</b>	25	No writing provided or writing is inaccurate	Simply defines target term and/or lists metaphors	Describes them; lists metaphors	Metaphors are embedded within text or poem

Common Core State Standards this item assesses

The task the student must complete

How long the task should take the student to complete

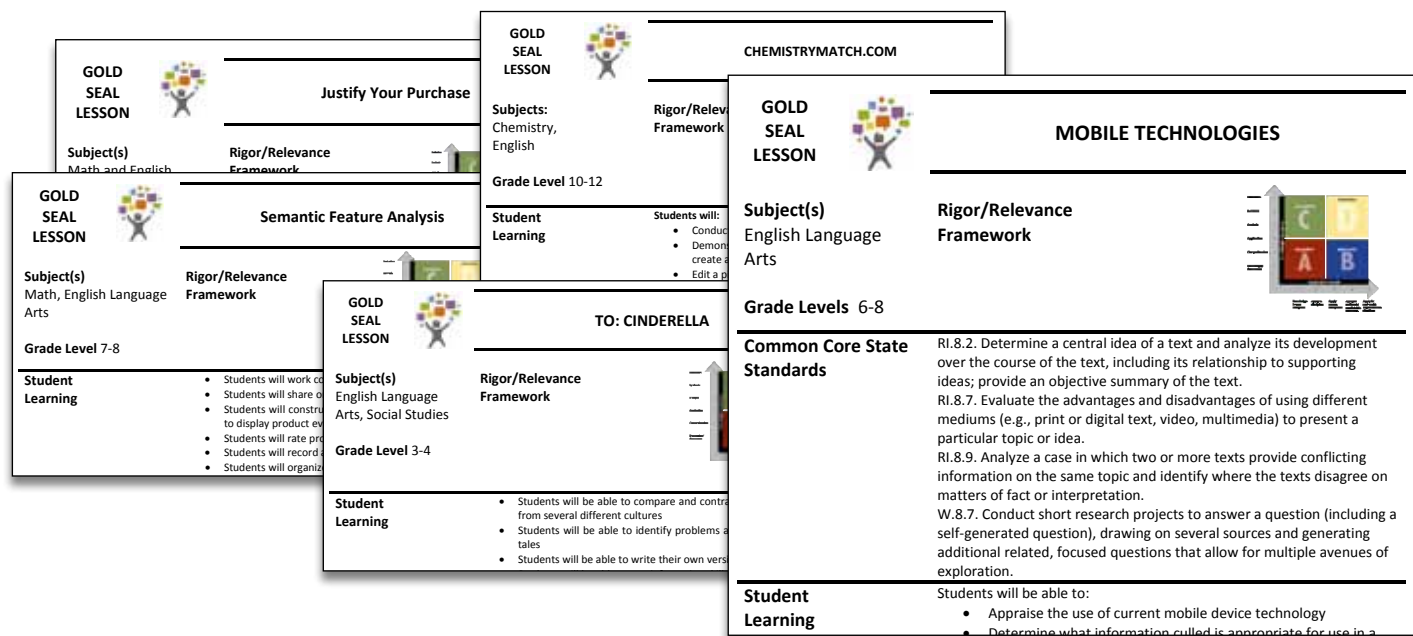
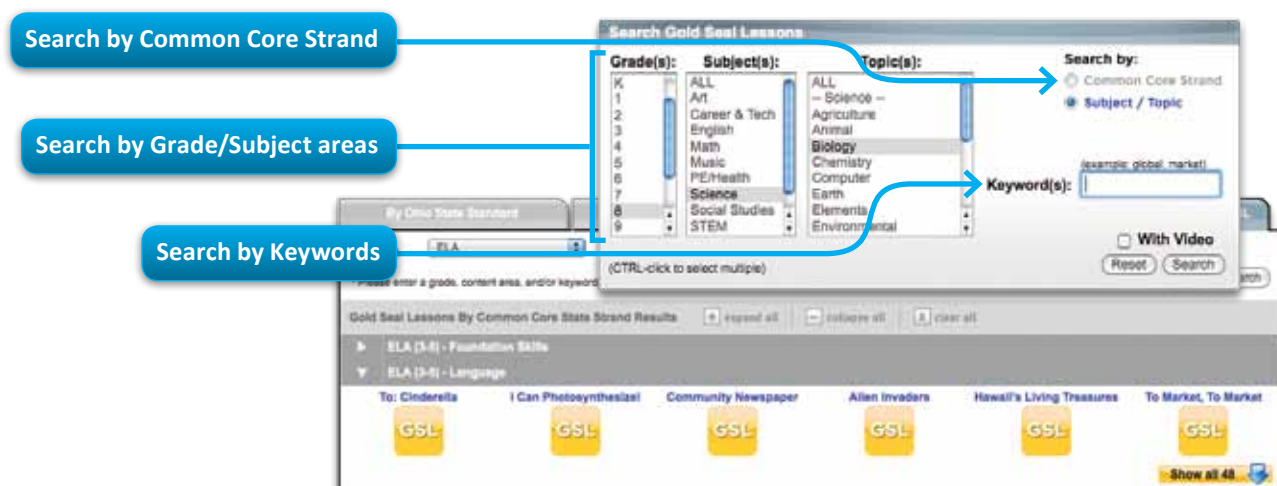
What the student must produce for teachers to assess performance

The criteria by which the quality of student work is assessed

# High-Rigor Lessons Ready to Use Today

This library of more than 2,000 rigorous and relevant Gold Seal Lessons for all content areas in K–12 are aligned to Common Core State Standards. This vast collection of high-quality lessons:

- Will help students and teachers prepare for the rigor and length of the new assessments by offering exemplary, classroom-proven, lessons with durations ranging from one day to three weeks
- Were written by teachers who have used, field-tested, and fine-tuned the lessons based on their use in classrooms. Each Gold Seal Lesson also goes through an extensive vetting process by the team of educators at Successful Practices Network and International Center for Leadership in Education, ensuring it meets high standards for rigor and relevance
- Expands daily as Next Network members contribute new lessons on an ongoing basis
- Provides an alternative approach to teaching the content required of Common Core State Standards
- Boosts student engagement with content and context highly relevant to the real world





# Create Your Own Assessment Items

Teacher Workspaces help educators reflect upon their current instructional practices and walk them through the process of increasing the rigor and relevance of their lessons.

Users can employ the following to write, revise, and share their own performance tasks:

**The Verb Analyzer** helps ensure that the assessment task is high in rigor.

This tool evaluates your performance task based on the four quadrants of the Rigor / Relevance Framework, the revised Bloom's Taxonomy, and Norman Webb's Four Depths of Knowledge (DOK).

**The Application Guide** assists in the process of increasing the relevance of the performance task.

**Question Suggestions** prompt the use of question stems associated with high levels of rigor and relevance.

**Student Work List** ensures that daily student work prepares them for complex questions they will see on the test and real-life scenarios they will confront in college and careers.

**Coaching Advice** offers tips, suggestions and guidance for writing a task, creating a scoring guide, and identifying performance-based student work products.

The image displays a collage of screenshots from the 'next toolkit' software interface, illustrating various tools used for creating assessment items.

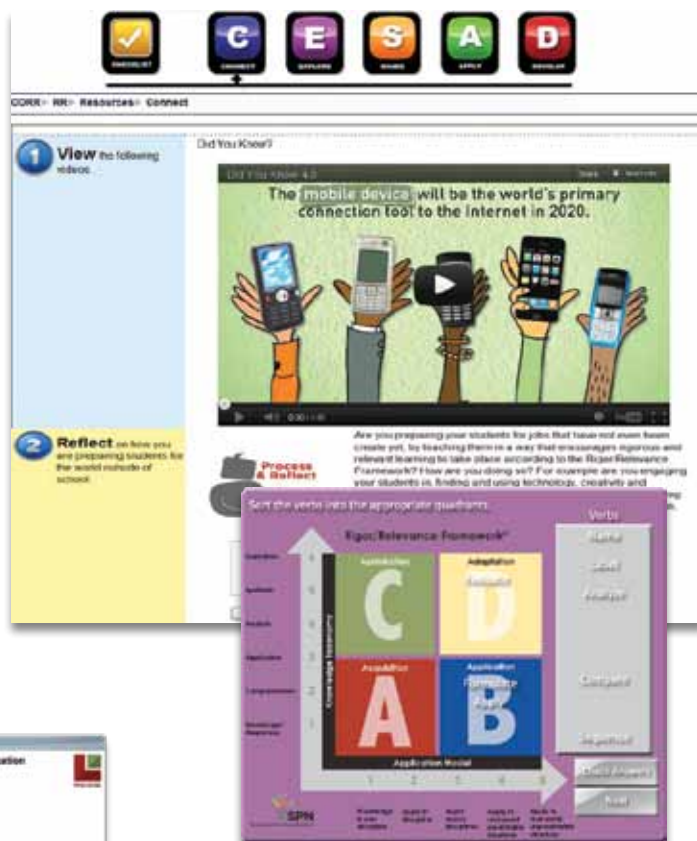
- Main Interface:** Shows four steps: Step 1: Standards, Step 2: Task, Step 3: Scoring Guide, and Step 4: Student Work. Below these steps are tabs for Verb Analyzer, Application Guide, Question Suggestions, and Student Work.
- Text Editor:** A sample task is shown: "Using the Internet, research three colleges or universities that you might someday like to attend. First, prepare a compare-and-contrast chart on your computer with rows labeled to show information to consider in choosing among the schools. For example, you may choose to compare the size of the student bodies, whether the schools are public or private, the cost of tuition, how close or far from home the schools are located, and whether the schools are in small towns or a large cities. Then do your research and complete the chart. Recommend which school is best suited for you."
- Verb Analyzer (Rigor/Relevance Framework):** A 2x2 grid with quadrants A, B, C, and D. Quadrant C is highlighted in green, and Quadrant D is highlighted in yellow.
- Bloom's Revised Taxonomy:** A pyramid diagram with six levels: Create, Evaluate, Analyze, Apply, Understand, and Remember.
- Depth of Knowledge (DOK) Levels:** A circular diagram with four levels: Level One, Level Two, Level Three, and Level Four.
- Verb Analyzer (Bloom's Taxonomy):** A diagram showing the relationship between Bloom's Taxonomy levels and the Rigor/Relevance Framework quadrants.
- Teacher Question Suggestions:** A list of question stems aligned to the quadrants of the Rigor/Relevance Framework.
- Coach's Advice:** A window providing guidance for Step 4: Student Work, including an overview of student work and a list of coaching tips.

# Ongoing Professional Development on Your Schedule

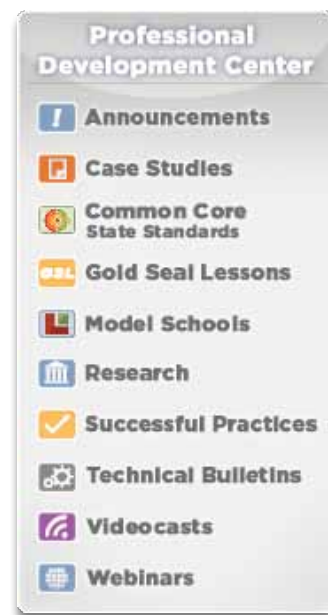
Next Network enables educators to continue their professional learning by providing customizable activities and access to on-demand resources 24/7. All users have unlimited access to:

- Graduate-level online courses, including:
  1. Effective Methods for Building Relationships
  2. Using the Rigor/Relevance Framework
  3. Quadrant D Lesson Development
  4. Instructional Strategies for Rigor and Relevance
- Library of case studies profiling national model schools and their paths to success.
- Monthly webinars with timely professional coaching focused on topics crucial and relevant to schools. Presented by model schools, education leaders, researchers, and field experts.
- Extensive collection of videocasts highlighting current educational theory, next practices, and nationally renowned speakers.

**Graduate credits are available**



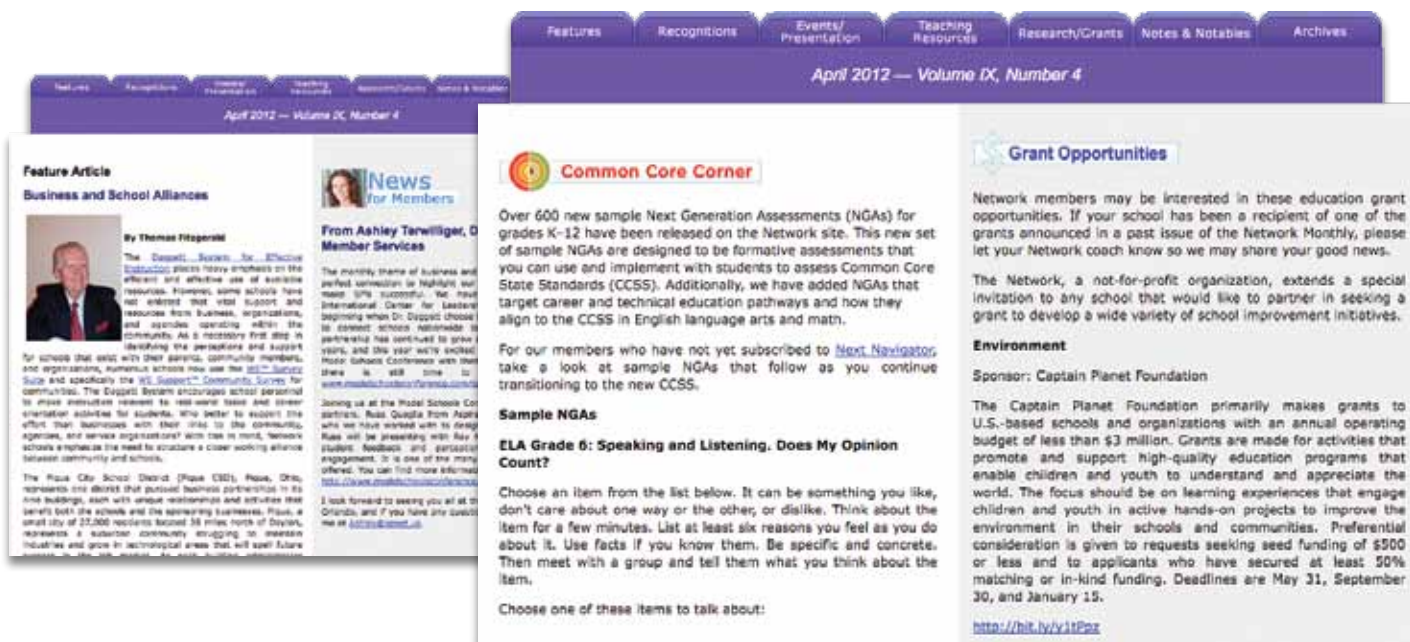
Videocasts and webinars are embedded in the page for ease of viewing



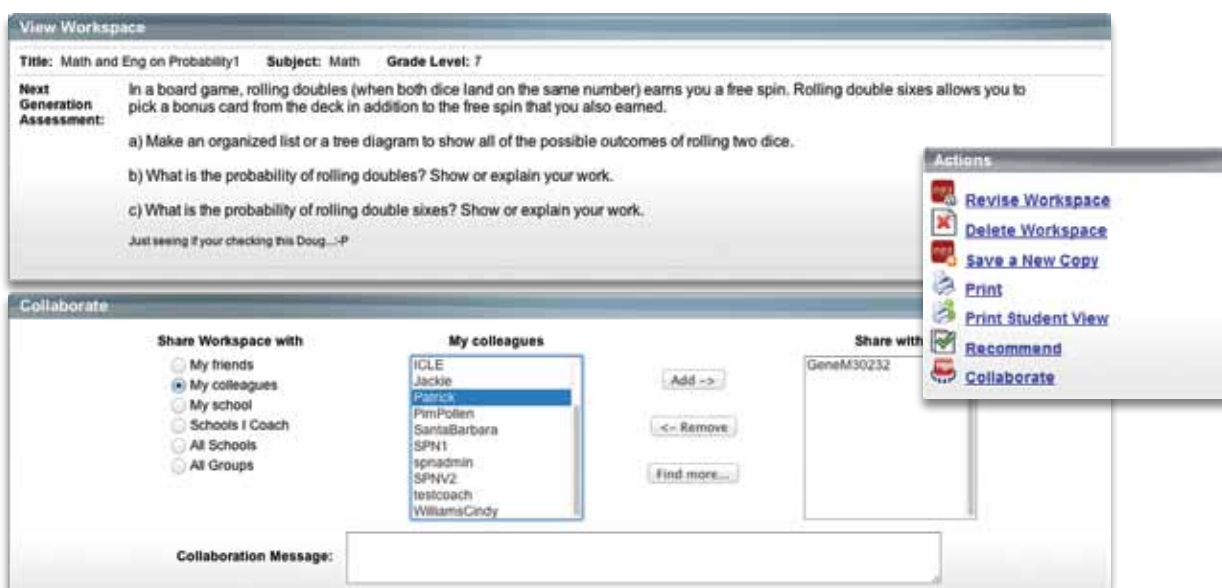
# Connect, Share, Collaborate

Next Network users can connect and share with like-minded peers committed to raising student achievement. Through the digital environment, educators will:

- Connect with peers and colleagues from K–12 schools across the nation to share best and next practices.
- Receive monthly email communications such as the Network Monthly Newsletter and the Learning Leaders Q&A Column



- Collaborate with peers to create, modify, and share next generation assessment items and Gold Seal Lessons.





# Set Goals and Monitor Progress

The Implementation Calendar helps educators set and monitor expectations for creating, using, and revising new performance tasks.

The calendar has been pre-loaded with a set of typical implementation tasks on a recommended timeline but is fully customizable to meet the needs of all schools. The monitoring tools are designed to help busy school leaders collaborate to set dates, monitor progress, and mark tasks as complete.

**Calendar indicates date assigned and person responsible**

Planning Phase	Date	Responsibility	Completed
Distribute Authorization Code to Leadership Team	2012-08-29	Gonyo, Jackie (Jackie)	
Train Leadership Team on NN	2012-09-05	Terwilliger, Ashley (Ashley)	
Confirm implementation goals/results	2012-09-13	All Staff	
Schedule Implementation Planning Meeting	2012-09-17	Silver, Doug (DougS)	Complete
Complete Implementation and Communication Plan	2012-09-27	Pedinotti, Jerry (JerryP01)	

**Easy-to-monitor completion status**

Startup Phase	Date	Responsibility	Completed
Build staff awareness	0000-00-00		
Schedule training meeting	0000-00-00		

**Suggested actions and sets are included and fully customizable**

Monitor Q1	Date	Responsibility	Completed
Provide guidance on activities	0000-00-00		
Provide weekly updates/successes/challenges /actions	0000-00-00		
Conduct monthly implementation review meetings	0000-00-00		

**Ability to add other users who may update and edit the calendar**

Monitor Q2	Date	Responsibility	Completed
Provide guidance on activities	0000-00-00		
Provide weekly updates/successes/challenges /actions	0000-00-00		
Conduct monthly implementation review meetings	0000-00-00		
Provide Mid-Year Implementation Report			

**Calendar may be archived to track progress year over year**

- Add/Delete Editors
- Edit Calendar
- View My Tasks
- View Summary
- Print Summary
- View Activity Log
- Activate Calendar
- Archive Calendar
- Delete Calendar

**Track the progress of the entire school**

Below you will find the phases of implementing Next Navigator in your school.

- Green dots below each phase indicate if it has been assigned.
- Check marks indicate if it has been completed.
- Red dots indicate at least one of the tasks is incomplete and past due.

Click on the phase to view details.

Planning Phase	Startup Phase	Monitor Q1	Monitor Q2	Monitor Q3	Monitor Q4	Evaluation
●	●	●	●	●	●	●

**Easily track your own progress**

Planning Phase tasks assigned to you or coaches.

Task	Date	Responsibility	Completed
Train Leadership Team on NN	2012-09-05	Terwilliger, Ashley (Ashley)	
Confirm implementation goals/results	2012-09-13	Terwilliger, Ashley (Ashley)	Complete

Mark task complete    Mark task incomplete